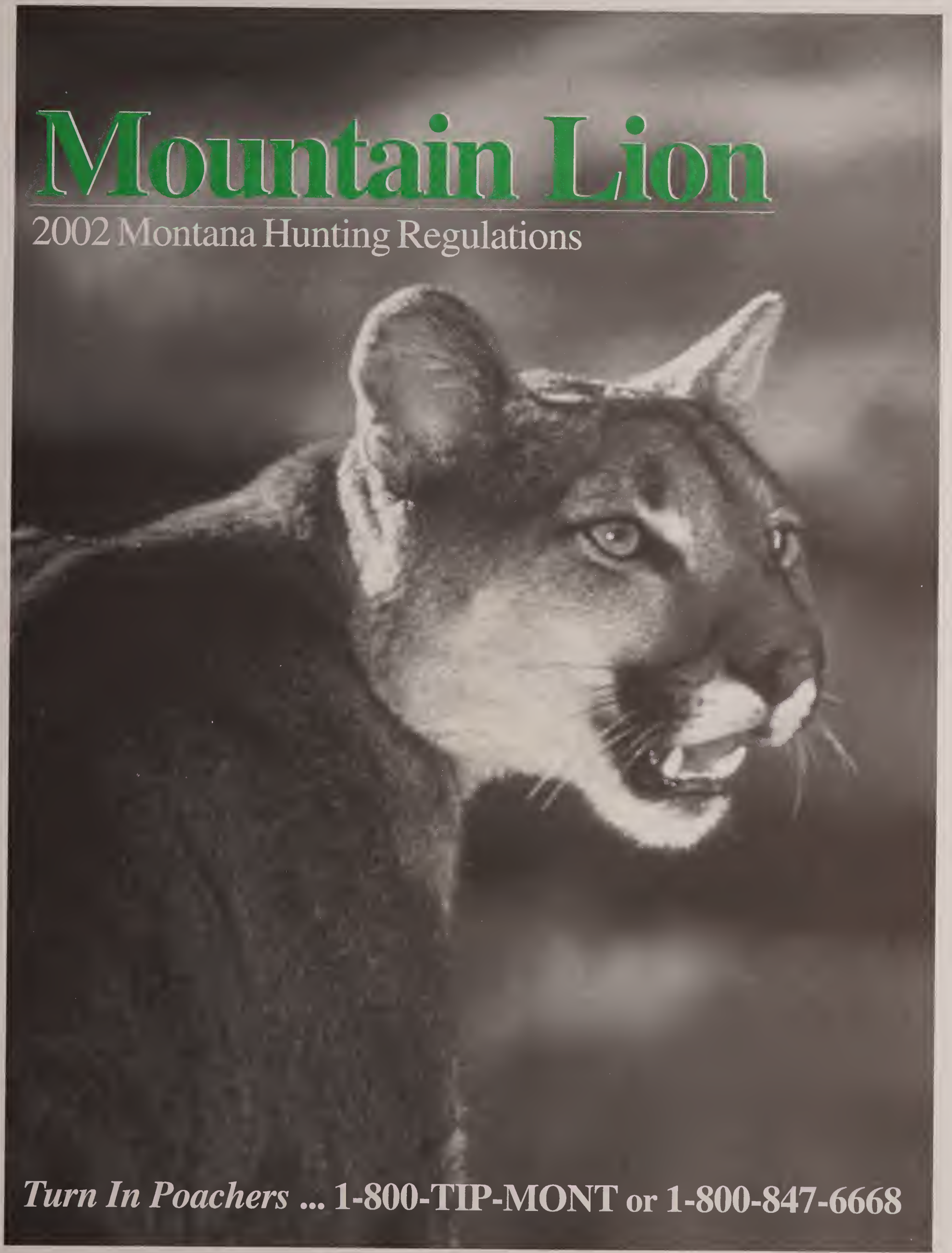
Mountain Lion

2002 Montana Hunting Regulations



Turn In Poachers **... 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668**

Neal & Mary Jane Mishler

Licensing & Regulations

Licenses

- A hunter may purchase only one mountain lion license per year.
- Mountain lion licenses are available only at Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Headquarters and Regional Offices.
- A hunter may legally take one adult mountain lion per season. A nonresident hunter hunting with dogs and not hunting with an outfitter must have a hunting harvest permit (HHP) to take a lion in portions of Region 1 (100 series districts) during the winter season.
- Hunter orange is required for mountain lion hunters.
- Applications must be postmarked by the US Postal Service no later than August 31.

General Regulations

- As a big game animal, mountain lions may only be taken by hunting (rifle, pistol or archery).
- When the total quota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion season for that area will close upon 24-hours notice to the harvest of mountain lions, but no later than April 14. EXCEPTION: HDs 100, 103 & 104 may close on 12 hours notice.
- When the subquota is reached in a hunting district or hunting district group, the mountain lion subquota for that area will close upon 24-hours notice to the harvest of mountain lions, but no later than April 14.
- The Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission has authorized the department to initiate closure prior to reaching the quota or subquota when conditions or circumstances indicate the quota may be reached within the 24-hour closure notice period. EXCEPTION: HDs 100, 103 & 104 may close on 12 hours notice.
- The mountain lion license and tag must be attached to the animal immediately upon kill.
- Evidence of sex must remain naturally intact on the hide.
- Evidence of sex must be verified by department personnel before a trophy license is issued. It will also be mandatory that skulls be turned in for tagging at the time a trophy license is issued. A tooth will be taken at this time for aging purposes.
- A hunter harvesting a mountain lion must, if required by FWP, physically return to the kill site for inspection.
- All Wildlife Management Areas are closed to lion hunting in the winter season except Fleecer and Mt. Haggin WMAs will be open December 2 - 15, 2002.
- All National Wildlife Refuges are closed to lion hunting.
- Two-way communications may not be used to: 1) hunt big game animals as defined in MCA 87-2-101(8).("Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture.") OR 2) avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate unlawful activity. When hunting mountain lions or bobcats with dogs, this rule applies when hounds are placed on tracks in a district open to lion or bobcat harvest. The rule shall not be interpreted to prohibit the possession or use of two-way radios for safety or other legitimate purposes, nor does it prohibit the use of radio tracking equipment to locate hounds when hunting mountain lions or bobcats.
- Night Vision Equipment: Use of night vision equipment or electronically enhanced light gathering optics for locating or hunting game is prohibited.
- Airplane Spotting: Aircraft may not be used to locate big game animals for the purpose of 1) hunting those animals within the same hunting day after a person has been airborne; 2) providing information to another person for the purpose of hunting those animals within the same hunting day after being airborne. The same **hunting day** in this context is defined as between the earliest and latest legal shooting hours.
- Enforcement of Area Closures on Public Land: All federally approved travel plans on public lands in Montana are hereby adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission. Motorized travel in restricted areas in violation of any current travel plan or land use plan is prohibited during the hunting season.

Current Harvest Closure Information

- Current Harvest Information may be obtained by calling the FWP Headquarters in the administrative region where the district is located during normal business hours or statewide information may be obtained by calling **1-800-385-7826 or the FWP website at fwpwld@state.mt.us** 24-hours a day. The toll free line and website are updated by 1 PM (MST) every day.

Use of Dogs

- Dogs may be used to chase or hunt mountain lions in the winter season. Lion hunting and chasing is open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for the dates listed by hunting district.
- It is prohibited for a dog owner or lion hunter to release dogs on a lion track, or allow dogs to chase a lion, or hold a lion at bay during any period of the day or year when the season is not open to hunting or chasing lions. Legitimate attempts to retrieve loose dogs after legal hunting hours does not constitute a violation of this rule.
- Persons handling dogs in the field are required to have purchased a mountain lion license.
- A hunter that has purchased a valid mountain lion license may legally chase mountain lion during the hunting season.

East Half HD 292 Closed to Mountain Lion Hunting & Chasing

Legal Description:

Those portions of Missoula, Powell and Granite Counties lying withing the following described boundary: Beginning at State Route 200 at Ovando, then southeast along the Ovando-Helmville County Road to Route 271 at Helmville then southerly along said route (Helmville-Drummond Road) to its intersection with US Interstate Highway 90, then westerly along said highway to where the Bear Creek Road crosses under said highway, then northerly along the Bear Creek Road to Garnet, then northwesterly along the Garnet Range - Greenough Post Office Road (BLM Road 0401) to State Route 200, then easterly along said route to Ovando, the point of beginning.

Reminder to Hunters

Mountain Lion Quotas Fill Quickly in Some Hunting Districts. Check With the Regional Office or Call 1-800-385-7826.

- A hunter may legally take one adult mountain lion per season. A nonresident hunter hunting with dogs and not hunting with an outfitter must have a hunting harvest permit (HHP) to take a lion in portions of Region 1 (100 series districts) during the winter season.
- Region One Mountain Lion Permits - see quota and drawing information under the 100 Series districts in these regulations.
- Statewide Fall Season (Oct. 27 - Dec. 1) WITHOUT DOGS Fall Season will close when 20% of Winter Season quota is reached, except HD 150 and 151.
- One Subdistrict has a special permit - HD 101. See quota and drawing information in these regulations.
- A portion of the Missoula Special Management Area - the Rattlesnake Area has special rules. These rules are available from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Missoula office (406-542-5500).

Export Mountain Lions

- A CITES permit is required in order to export mountain lion hides or parts out of the United States. Information on these permits and how to acquire them may be obtained from: Office of Management Authority, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 432, Arlington VA 22203 (1-800-358-2104) or local USFWS office or agent.

Licensing & Regulations

- Transporting - If you are transporting game or fish between Montana and Canada, whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes, you must complete a USFWS declaration form. Contact the USFWS Wildlife Inspector (406-453-5790 or FAX 406-453-3657) (www.fws.gov) for details.

Mountain Lion - Trophy

A Hunter Harvesting a Mountain Lion Must:

- Personally report their lion kill within 12 hours by calling the FWP Regional Office during office hours (8 am - 5 pm weekdays) in the administrative region where the kill was made. Reports can be made after office hours and on weekends by calling the Mountain Lion Reporting Number (406-449-1065). Hunters must then personally present the hide and skull within ten (10) days to an officer of FWP residing in the administrative region in which the license was filled, for the purpose of inspection, tagging, recording of kill, and issuance of a trophy license. Hunters unable to comply with the tagging and trophying requirements due to special or unique circumstances, must contact the administrative region in which the lion was killed and receive authority for tagging and trophying outside the region in which the animal was taken.
- The hide tag must thereafter remain attached to the hide until tanned.
- It is unlawful for anyone to possess, ship, transport, sell or purchase any mountain lion, or part thereof, unless they have been tagged as prescribed.

STATEWIDE FALL HUNTING SEASON WITHOUT DOGS (Oct. 27 - Dec. 1)

Any legal mountain lion may be taken during the fall season (Oct. 27 - Dec. 1). The season will close on Dec. 1 or upon reaching 20% of the quota established for the winter season as shown in these regulations. USE OF DOGS IS PROHIBITED DURING THIS SEASON. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ARE THE SAME. During this season female lions with kittens should not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, the hunter is to inform an official of FWP as soon after the kill as possible so that an attempt can be made to backtrack the lion and locate the kittens. No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed. The fall season harvest will be deducted from the winter season quota.WINTER SEASON (Dec. 2- Apr. 14)

WINTER SEASON (Dec. 2 - Apr. 14)

Females with kittens may not be taken. If a lactating female is killed, she shall be backtracked and the kittens captured and turned over to FWP within 24 hours (kittens are young of the year). No juveniles (with body spots) shall be killed.

LION HUNTING BY SPECIAL PERMIT ONLY

Hunters may apply for only one special permit to hunt mountain lions in any of the hunting districts listed below.

The special permit in a portion of Hunting District 101 is valid from Dec. 2, 2002 - Apr. 14, 2003. Hunters may ONLY hunt within the boundaries identified on a hunting map that will be mailed to all permit holders.

HD 101-02 (Eastside Koocanusa Area) 5 any legal lion

Nonresidents are limited to no more than 10% of permits offered, therefore, nonresidents may not apply for the 101-02 permits. Hunters are permitted to hunt only in the portion of the hunting district for which the permit is valid. Hunting in the permit area will continue for 101-02 permit holders throughout the legal lion season even though the quota may have been met and no other hunting is permitted in the hunting district.

Hunters apply by submitting name, address, phone number, 2002 ALS number and hunting district number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee no later than September 30, 2002. Special permit application can be made on a 3 x 5 card. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell MT 59901.

Drawing results will be available the second week of October from the FWP Kalispell office.

NONRESIDENT LION HUNTING HARVEST PERMITS(HHP)

A hunting harvest permit (HHP) is required for a **non-outfitted nonresident** to hunt with dogs and **harvest** a mountain lion in Region One (100 series districts) in northwest Montana except HDs 150 & 151. This permit, awarded by a random drawing for each Region One hunting district or district aggregates enables a nonresident to participate in the hunting season with dogs and harvest a mountain lion under the hunting district quota. The hunting of lions will close for both residents and nonresidents upon reaching the established quota or closure for each district or district aggregates.

All hunting districts in the 100 series EXCEPT 150 & 151 will offer hunting harvest permits to nonresidents. Nonresident hunters with a Hunting Harvest Permit are permitted to hunt with dogs in the district for which the permit is valid. Nonresidents hunting with an outfitter or guide need not apply for the following Hunting Harvest Permits because they do not need one.

HD 100-00	2 HHPs
HD 101-00	2 HHPs
HD 102-00	2 HHPs
HD 103-00	1 HHP
HD 104-00	1 HHP
HD 109-00	1 HHP
HD 110-00	1 HHP
HD 120-00	1 HHP
HD 121-00	3 HHPs
HD 122-00	2 HHPs
HD 123-00	1 HHP
HD 124-00	1 HHP
HD 130-00	2 HHPs
HD 132 & 170	2 HHPs
HD 140-00	1 HHP
HD 141-00	1 HHP

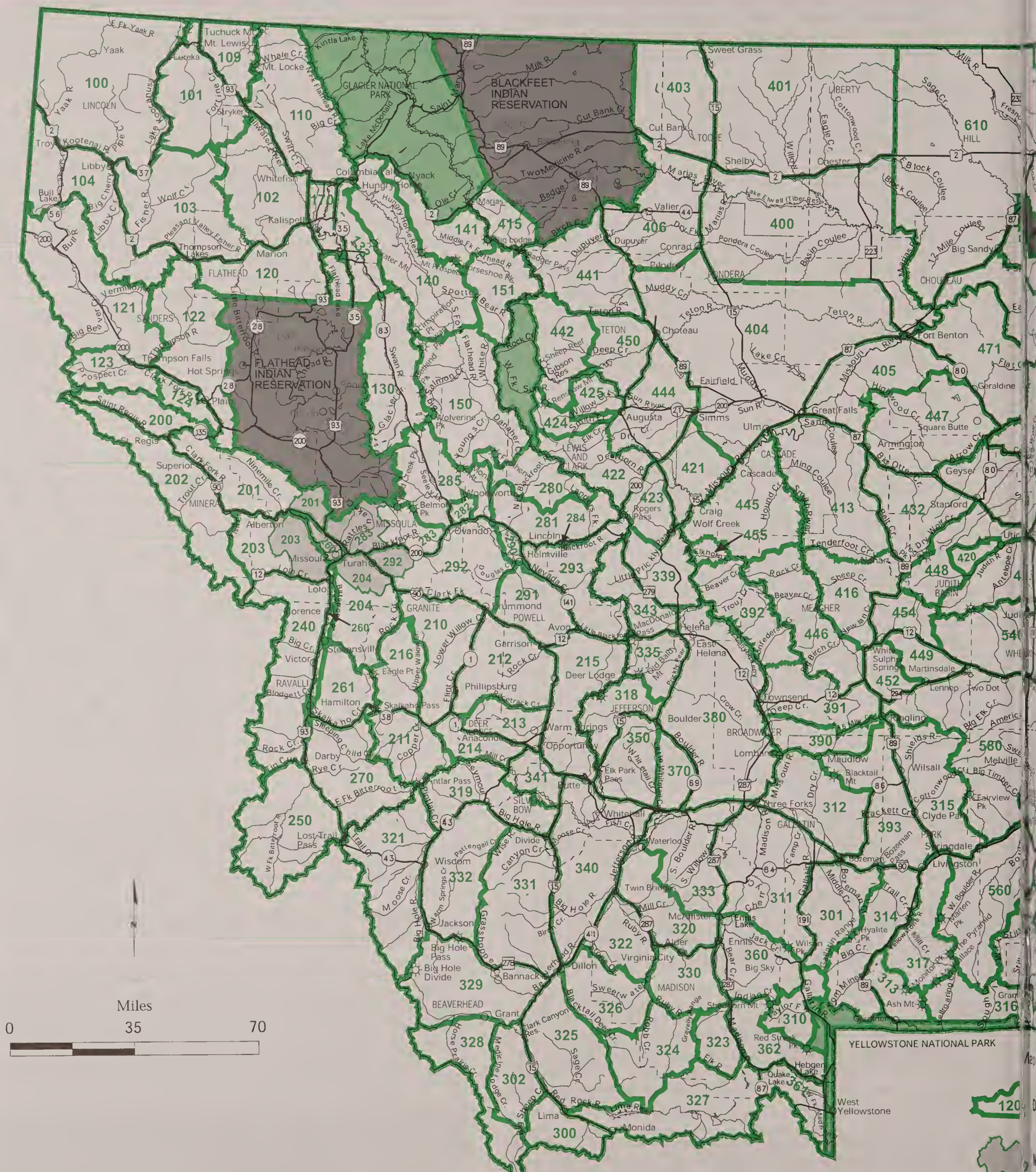
Hunters apply by submitting name, address, phone number, 2002 ALS number, lion hunting district number and a $3 nonrefundable drawing fee no later than September 30, 2002. Special permit application can be made on a 3 x 5 card. Send to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 North Meridian Road, Kalispell MT 59901.

Drawing results will be available the second week of October from the FWP Kalispell office.

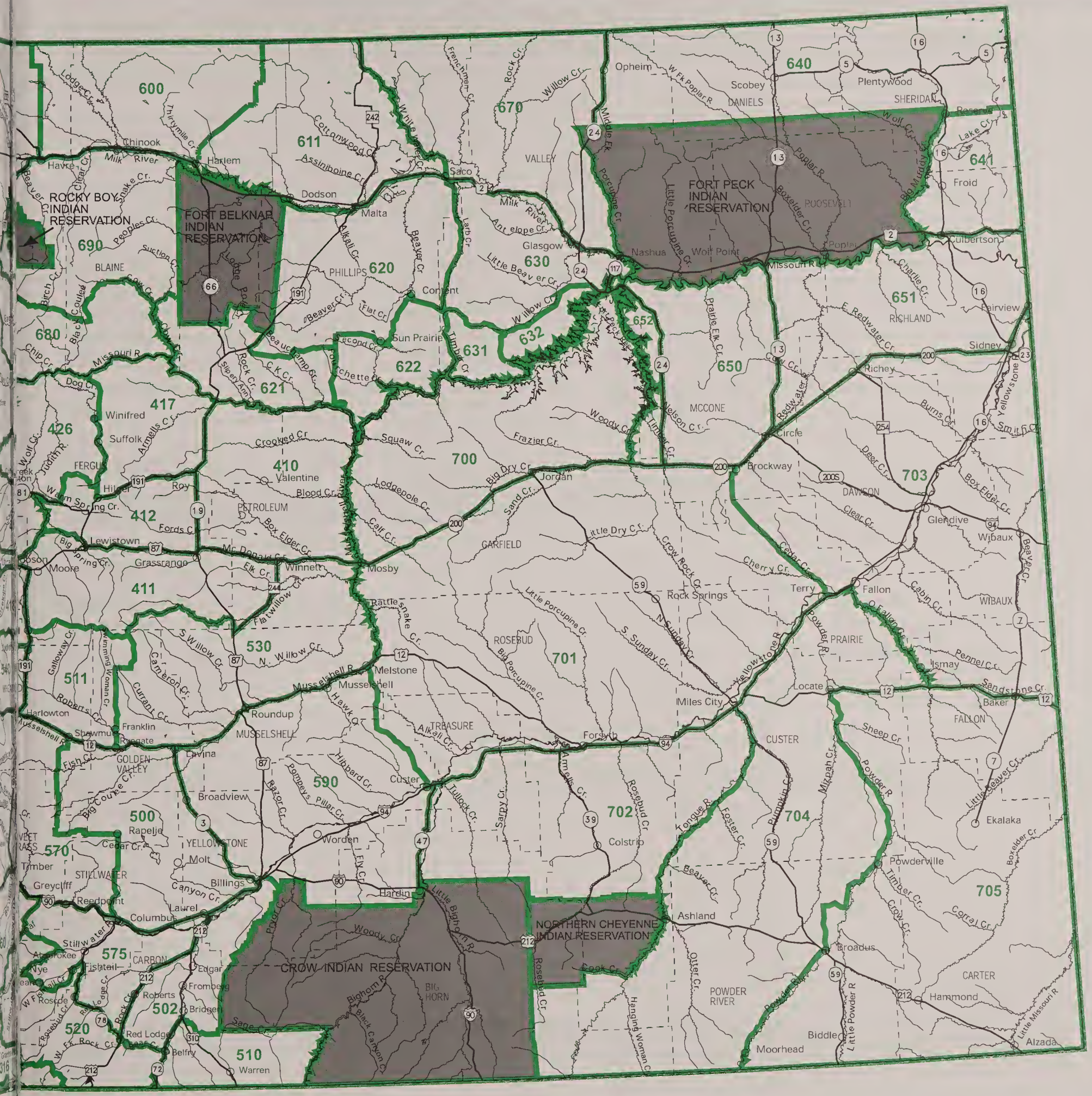
The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks 2002 mountain lion license allows all resident and nonresident hound handlers to pursue or chase mountain lions during the December 2 to April 14 period. Montana residents and legally outfitted nonresident hunters may harvest a mountain lion with this license within the established quotas. Nonresidents not booked with an outfitter must successfully draw a Nonresident Hunter Harvest Permit to harvest a lion with dogs in the Region One series districts.

These regulations and final quotas are adopted under the authority granted to the MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission in Section 87-1-301, MCA, and are valid March 1, 2002 through April 14, 2003. These regulations and quotas were adopted by the MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission on June 18, 2002. Jeff Hagener, Director.

Mountain Lion Hunting Districts



Mountain Lion Hunting Districts



intended only as a guide. Please refer to the legal descriptions in the Deer/Elk hunting regulations for actual boundary description.

Deer/Elk/Lion Hunting District

Missoula Special Management Area

Closed to Hunting for Big Game

Areas Not Administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Hunting Districts & Quotas

Hunting District (or groups)	Hunting Season	Final Lion Harvest Quotas		
100 SERIES DISTRICTS			Nonresident HHP Drawing Quota	
100	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	18 any legal lion	2 HHP	
101	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8 any legal lion	2 HHP	
102	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10 any legal lion	2 HHP	
103	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8 any legal lion	1 HHP	
104	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8 any legal lion	1 HHP	
109	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4 any legal lion	1 HHP	
110	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8 any legal lion	1 HHP	
120	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10 any legal lion	1 HHP	
121	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	19 any legal lion	3 HHP	
122	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	15 any legal lion	2 HHP	
123	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5 any legal lion	1 HHP	
124	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3 any legal lion	1 HHP	
130	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10 any legal lion	2 HHP	
132 & 170	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	13 any legal lion	2 HHP	
140	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	9 any legal lion	1 HHP	
141	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5 any legal lion	1 HHP	
150 & 151	Sept. 15 Apr. 14, 2003	6 any legal lion		
200 SERIES DISTRICTS				
*Except Missoula Special Management Area		**TOTAL**	**Female**	**Male**
200 & 201*	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10	4	6
202 & 203*	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	11	4	7
204*, 260*, 261	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	None	3
Missoula Special Management Area Portions of 201, 203, 204, 260, 283 & 292	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	25	15	10
Specific rules for the Rattlesnake Area of the Missoula Special Management Area are available at the Missoula Fish, Wildlife & Parks office.				
210	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	1	4
211 & 216	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	2	4
212 & 215	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10	6	4
213 & 214	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	2	1	1
240	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	None	3
250	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	None	5
270	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	None	3
280, 281, 284 & 293	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	1	3
282	CLOSED			
283 & 285	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	1	3
290, 291 & western half HD 292;	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	2	1	1
eastern half of HD 292 closed.				
300 SERIES DISTRICT				
300, 302, 328 & 329	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	3	
301	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	2	
310, 311, 360, 361 & 362	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	12	4	
Spanish Peaks Portion of HD311	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	7 any legal lion		

Legal Description: Spanish Peaks Portion of HD311

Those portions of Gallatin County within the following described boundary: Beginning at the confluence of Cascade Creek and the Gallatin River, then southerly up the Gallatin River to its intersection with Dudley/Creek-West Fork Gallatin divide near Big Sky junction (U.S. Highway 191 and Route 64), then northwesterly up said divide to Wilson Peak, then northeasterly along the Dudley Creek-Hell Roaring Creek divide to trail 481, then easterly along said trail to Table Mtn, then northerly along the Lava Lake trail (trail numbers 445 and 77 to the mouth of Cascade Creek and the Gallatin River, the point of beginning.

Hunting Districts & Quotas

		TOTAL	Female	Male
312 & 393	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	10	4	
313 & 316	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	1	
314	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	2	
315	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	3	
317	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	2	
318 & 350	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	3	3
319, 341	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	3	
Lion hunting is permitted on Fleecer and Mt. Haggin WMAs from December 2 15, 2002				
320 & 333	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	3	
321& 332	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	2	
322, 326 & 330	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	3	
323, 324, 325 & 327	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	3	
331	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	7	3	4
335, 339 & 343	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8	5	
340	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5	4	
370 & 380	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	14	6	8
390, 391 & 392	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	15	7	8
400 SERIES DISTRICTS				
400, 401, 403, 406, 415 & 441	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3	1	2
404, 421, 444 & 450	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	11	7	4
405, 447 & 471	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	2	2
410, 417, 419 & 426	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	9	6	3
411 & 412	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	13	8	5
413 & 432	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	9	5	4
416, 446, 449, 452 & 454	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	16	9	7
418, 420 & 448	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	12	7	5
422, 423, 424, 425 & 442	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	15	5	10
445 & 455	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	14	8	6
500 SERIES DISTRICTS				
500 & 570	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4 any legal lion		
502 & 575	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4 any legal lion		
510	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	2	
511	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	4	2	
520	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8	4	
530 & 590	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	5 any legal lion		
540	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	6	3	
560	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	14	7	
580	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8	4	
600 SERIES DISTRICTS				
600, 610, 620, 621, 622, 623, 630, 631, 632, 640, 641, 650, 651, 652, 670	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	3 any legal lion		
680 & 690	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	8	3	
700 SERIES DISTRICTS				
Region 7	Dec. 2 Apr. 14, 2003	20 any legal lion		

Who Do I Call?

Current Mountain Lion Harvest Status (24 hours/day - 7 days/week) **1-800-385-7826**
Mountain Lion Harvest Reporting Number **406-449-1065**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks State Headquarters
1420 East 6th Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 ..... **406-444-2535**

Hunter Education **406-444-4046**
Hunter Safety Requirements **406-444-3188**
Wildlife Division **406-444-2612**
Enforcement Division **406-444-2452**
Telephone Device for the Deaf **406-444-1200**
Resident and Nonresident Licensing for fishing, upland game birds, migratory birds, black bear, and mountain lion **406-444-2535**

Visit the website: fwp.state.mt.us

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Boundaries

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Regional Boundaries

REGION 1
490 N Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 ..... **406-752-5501**
REGION 2
3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804 ..... **406-542-5500**
REGION 3
1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59715 ..... **406-994-4042**
REGION 4
4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405 ..... **406-454-5840**
REGION 5
2300 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT 59105 ..... **406-247-2940**
REGION 6
Route 1-4210, Glasgow, MT 59230 ..... **406-228-3700**
REGION 7
Industrial Site West, PO Box 1630, Miles City, MT 59301 ..... **406-232-0900**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Area Resource Offices

Butte (BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Lane, Butte, MT 59701 ..... **406-494-1953**
Havre (HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East, Havre, MT 59501 ..... **406-265-6177**
Helena (HARO)
930 Custer Avenue West, Helena, MT 59602 ..... **406-444-4720**
Lewistown (LARO)
2358 Airport Road, PO Box 938, Lewistown, MT 59457 ..... **406-538-4658**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks